

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FREETO 00399 281713Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-01 PER-01 CPR-01 /048 W

----- 099450

O 281642Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 820

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU

SUBJECT: DAVIS NOMINATION: FONMIN LUKE'S COMMENTS

REF: STATE 045194

1. REFTEL ARRIVED SUBSEQUENT TO MY FIRST COURTESY CALL ON FONMIN LUKE YESTERDAY. GROUND WORK WAS LAID DURING THAT CALL, HOWEVER, FOR FURTHER CONVERSATION WHICH JUST CONCLUDED.

2. YESTERDAY, LUKE SAID THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS HAD EXISTED IN THE PAST BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE HOPED SUCH MISUNDERSTANDINGS WOULD EXIST NO LONGER. I INDICATED THAT I VIEWED HIS COMMENTS AS A CHALLENGE. OUR RELATIONS SHOULD NOT SUFFER FROM MISUNDERSTANDINGS. I SAID I WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WHENEVER HE HAD QUESTIONS. I WOULD HOPE THAT HE WOULD DO LIKEWISE. FOR MY PART, ALL OUR EXCHANGES WOULD BE COMPLETELY FRANK. HE URGED ME TO SPEAK FRANKLY ON ANTHING THAT AROSE.

3. TODAY, ON MY REQUEST, LUKE SAW ME ON SHORT NOTICE. I REMINDED HIM THAT DCM HAD SPOKEN TO HIS PERMSEC TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY AND HAD PRESENTED COPY OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO ETEKI. LUKE WAS FAMILIAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 FREETO 00399 281713Z

WITH BOTH DCM'S CALL AND CONTENTS OF LETTER. I SAID

THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS DISMAYED BY THE INTER-FERENCE BY THE OAU IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE US AND WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT SIERRA LEONE SHOULD HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AFFAIR. SMILING, LUKE COMMENTED SARDONICALLY THAT OUR INFORMATION MAY BE BETTER THAN HIS OWN. HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD "CRITICIZED" THE APPOINTMENT. HE CLAIMED STILL NOT TO HAVE SEEN FINAL TEXT OF OAU RESOLUTION, HAVING LEFT ADDIS WHEN RESOLUTION WAS STILL IN DRAFT AND BEFORE ANY VOTE. THAT DRAFT MERELY STATED THE CONCERN OF THE COUNTRIES THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED BY POLICY CREATED BY AMBASSADOR DAVIS. AFRICANS KNEW THAT AMBASSADORS IN EACH OF THEIR COUNTRIES WOULD REPORT TO AMBASSADOR DAVIS. THE OAU MINISTERS WANTED THEIR CONCERN TO REACH THE US SENATE PRIOR TO ITS HEARING DAVIS NOMINATION.

4. LUKE SAID HIS INVOLVEMENT HAD BEEN TO SHARE WITH HIS COLLEAGUES HIS OWN INFORMATION AND CONCERN. HE PLACED MAJOR IMPORTANCE ON REPORTED NIGERIAN REFUSAL TO GRANT AGREEMENT TO AMBASSADOR DAVIS WHEN REQUESTED EARLIER, ASKING THE QUESTION, "HOW COULD AFRICA IGNORE THE FACT THAT ITS LARGEST COUNTRY FOUND AMBASSADOR DAVIS UNQUALIFIED TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES THERE?" LUKE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER COINCIDENCE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR DAVIS' INCUMBENCY IN CHILE AND GUATEMALA AND DISTURBANCES IN THOSE COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO DAVIS' TRIP TO WASHINGTON TO SPEAK WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. FINALLY, LUKE INDICATED THAT NO MEMBER OF SIERRA LEONEAN GOVERNMENT COULD IGNORE FACT THAT ALL PREVIOUS COUP ATTEMPTS IN SL HAD INCLUDED FIGURES SOME OF WHOM HAD INDICATED BACKING FROM AND INVOLVEMENT OF USG.

5. TAKING LAST POINT FIRST, I INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT LOOKED INTO PREVIOUS COUP ATTEMPTS IN SIERRA LEONE, I WAS SURE HE WAS EXCLUDING FROM HIS BROAD COMMENTS LAST JULY'S COUP ATTEMPT. LUKE HASTENED TO AGREE WITH MY EXCEPTION, BUT INDICATED THAT CERTAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 FREETO 00399 281713Z

CLOUDINESS EXISTED EVEN THEN OVER AVAILABILITY OF LARGE SUMS OF MONEY IN HANDS OF FORMER EMBASSY EMPLOYEE. (THIS EMPLOYEE, CURRENTLY UNDER DETENTION FOR ALLEGED COUP INVOLVEMENT, WAS FOUND IN SUBSEQUENT CASH COUNT TO BE SHORT ON ACCOUNTS.)

6. I INDICATED THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAD PROBLEMS WITH FONMIN'S COMMENTS IN TWO IMPORTANT RESPECTS. FIRST,

AMBASSADOR DAVIS' CREDENTIALS. AS A CAREER DIPLOMAT HAVING HELD TWO IMPORTANT AMBASSADORSHIPS AND HAVING HELD THE IMPORTANT POSITION DOMESTICALLY AS DIRECTOR GENERAL, DAVIS' QUALIFICATIONS WERE UNIMPEACHABLE. HIS HAVING THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER COULD ONLY BENEFIT AFRICA. HIS FAMILIARITY WITH AFRICA, GAINED DURING HIS PEACE CORPS DAYS, WAS A FURTHER QUALIFICATION. FURTHERMORE, TO MAKE SUCH A SERIOUS STATEMENT BASED ON INNUENDOS CONCERNING GUATEMALA AND CHILE FURTHER EXACERBATED THE SITUATION. AND, AS TO THE NIGERIAN AGREEMENT SITUATION, I DID NOT HAVE THE FACTS TO COMMENT.

7. SECONDLY, THE ATTEMPT BY THE OAU TO TRY TO INFLUENCE ACTIONS OF US SENATE WAS CLEAR EXAMPLE OF INVOLVEMENT IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I FOUND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND A DENIAL OF SUCH INVOLVEMENT WHEN, AS FONMIN HAD STATED, TIMING WAS SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT US SENATE HEARINGS. WOULD THE SIERRA LEONEAN GOVERNMENT APPRECIATE COMMENTS BY THE USG ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A CIVIL SERVANT TO BE IN CHARGE OF THEIR DIVISION FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE? AT THIS POINT, FONMIN'S ATTITUDE GREW IMPATIENT AND SLIGHTLY HOSTILE, INDICATING THAT MY PARALLEL WAS INADEQUATE. I THEN ASKED IF HE WOULD THINK IT APPROPRIATE, SHOULD THERE BE THREE CANDIDATES FOR POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU, IF THE UNITED STATES WERE TO INDICATE ITS CRITICISM FOR ANY ONE OF THE THREE CANDIDATES. TO ME THAT WOULD APPEAR UNWARRANTED USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICA. PERHAPS THE FONMIN WOULD ACCEPT THAT PARALLEL. AT THIS POINT, LUKE'S IMPATIENCE CAUSED HIM TO SAY THAT, ALTHOUGH HE APPRECIATED THE FRANKNESS OF MY COMMENTS OUR CONVERSATION HAD CLEARLY REACHED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 FREETO 00399 281713Z

A POINT BEYOND WHICH ANY PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE COULD ENSUE, AND I TOOK MY LEAVE. WE AGREED THAT OUR EXCHANGE HAD BEEN FRANK.
SAMUELS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FREETO00399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750071-0547
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975024/aaaaacvb.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 045194
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAVIS NOMINATION: FONMIN LUKE'S COMMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, XA, US, OAU, (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (LUKE, DESMOND EDWARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006